

In the claims:

Claims 1-23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method of encrypting main information, data of said main information including a group of data units, said method comprising:

 a first step of incorporating data of encrypting information, representative of an encrypting procedure, dispersedly into particular ones of the data units belonging to a predetermined first data group of said main information; and

 a second step of executing the encrypting procedure, represented by said encrypting information, on the data belonging to a predetermined second data group of said main information.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method as recited in claim 24 wherein said first step further incorporates predetermined additional information, other than said encrypting information, into said first data group of said main information.

Claim 26 (previously presented): An electronic information processing device for encrypting main information, data of said main information including a group of data units, said electronic information processing device comprising:

 a first section that incorporates data of encrypting information, representative of an encrypting procedure, dispersedly into particular ones of the data units belonging to a predetermined first data group of said main information; and

 a second section that executes the encrypting procedure, represented by said encrypting information, on the data belonging to a predetermined second data group of said main information.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A machine-readable recording medium containing a program executable by a computer for encrypting main information, data of said main information including a group of data units, said program comprising:

 a first step of incorporating data of encrypting information, representative of an encrypting procedure, dispersedly into particular ones of the data units belonging to a predetermined first data group of said main information; and

 a second step of encrypting the data belonging to a predetermined second data group of said main information through the encrypting procedure represented by said encrypting information.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A machine-readable recording medium containing data of first information including a group of data units and data of encrypting information representative of an encrypting procedure, the data of said encrypting information being incorporated dispersedly into particular ones of the data units belonging to a predetermined first data group of said main information, the data belonging to a predetermined second data group of said main information being encrypted through the encrypting procedure represented by said encrypting information.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A method of decoding and reproducing encrypted main information, data of encrypting information being incorporated dispersedly into particular data units in a predetermined first data group of said main information, data belonging to a predetermined second data group of said main information being encrypted by an encrypting procedure represented by said encrypting information, said method comprising:

a first step of reproducing said encrypting information, from said first data group of said main information having said encrypting information incorporated therein; and

a second step of, on the basis of said encrypting information reproduced by said first step, decoding the data belonging to said second data group to thereby reproduce said main information.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A device for decoding and reproducing encrypted main information, data of encrypting information being incorporated dispersedly into particular data units belonging to a predetermined first data group of said main information, data belonging to a predetermined second data group of said main information being encrypted by an encrypting procedure represented by said encrypting information, said device comprising:

 a first section that reproduces said encrypting information, from said first data group of said main information having said encrypting information incorporated therein; and

 a second section that, on the basis of said encrypting information reproduced by said first section, decodes the data belonging to said second data group to thereby reproduce said main information.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A machine-readable recording medium containing a program executable by a computer for decoding and reproducing encrypted main information, data of encrypting information being incorporated dispersedly into particular data units belonging to a predetermined first data group of said main information, data belonging to a predetermined second data group of said main information being encrypted by an encrypting procedure represented by said encrypting information, said program comprising:

 a first step of reproducing said encrypting information, from said first data group of said main information having said encrypting information incorporated therein; and

 a second step of, on the basis of said encrypting information reproduced by said first step, decoding the data belonging to said second data group to thereby reproduce said main information.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A method as recited in claim 24 wherein said first data group of said main information is classified into at least two characteristic groups according to data characteristics thereof, and said encrypting information is incorporated redundantly into said at least two characteristic groups.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A method as recited in claim 32 wherein said first step incorporates said encrypting information into each of the characteristic groups in accordance with an algorithm unique to said characteristic group.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A method as recited in claim 29 wherein said first data group of said main information is classified into at least two characteristic groups according to data characteristics thereof, and said encrypting information is incorporated redundantly into said at least two characteristic groups.

Claims 35 and 36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (previously presented): A method as recited in claim 24 wherein said main information to be encrypted is provided in a form of a real-time data stream;

wherein said first step incorporates the data of encrypting information, in real time, into said main information of the real-time data stream, and said second step executes the encrypting procedure, in real time, on said main information of the real-time data stream; and

wherein said method further comprises a step of transmitting to a communication network said main information having said encrypting information incorporated therein and having been encrypted by said second step, in a form of the real-time data stream.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A method as recited in claim 37 wherein said main information incorporates with additional information; and

wherein said main information is music performance information and said additional information contains data representative of any one of a text message, still picture, moving picture and sound message.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A method as recited in claim 29 wherein said main information to be decoded is transmitted via a communication network, in a form of a real-time data stream;

wherein said method further comprises a step of receiving said main information of the real-time data stream transmitted via the communication network;

wherein said first step reproduces said encrypting information, from said first data group of said main information of the real-time data stream received via the communication network; and

wherein said second step decodes, on the basis of said encrypting information reproduced by said first step, the data belonging to said second data group of said main information of the real-time data stream received via the communication network to thereby decode said main information.

Claim 40 (previously presented): A method as recited in claim 39 wherein said main information incorporates with additional information; and

wherein said further comprises a third step of detecting said additional information from the main information and a fourth step of displaying said additional information detected by said third step.

Claim 41 (previously presented): A method as recited in claim 39 wherein said main information incorporates with additional information; and wherein said main information is music performance information and said additional information contains data representative of any one of a text message, still picture, moving picture and sound message.

Claims 42 - 51 (canceled)

Claim 52 (previously presented): A method as recited in claim 24 wherein said main information is music performance information; and wherein said method further comprises a step of transmitting the music performance information after the execution of said encrypting procedure by said second step, whereby at a receiving end, only portions, other than a particular portion corresponding to said data belonging to the predetermined second data group, of the music performance information can be reproduced by every person while the particular portion of the music performance information having undergone the encrypting can be reproduced only by an authorized person.

Claim 53 (canceled)

Claim 54 (new): A system for transmitting information comprising:

 a first section that provides main information to be transmitted, data of said main information including a group of data units each having a predetermined plurality of bits;

 a second section that provides additional information to be incorporated into the data of said main information, said additional information including a plurality of data segments;

 a third section that incorporates the data segments of said additional information provided by said second section into particular ones of the data units of said main information provided by said first section, in accordance with a predetermined encoding algorithm, prior to transmission of said main information; and

 a fourth section that transmits to a communication network said main information having said additional information incorporated therein.

Claim 55 (new): A system for reproducing main information and additional information from data received via a communication network, data of said main information including a group of data units each having a predetermined plurality of bits, said additional information including a plurality of divided data segments, said main information having the data segments of said additional information incorporated in the data units thereof in accordance with a predetermined encoding algorithm, said system comprising:

a detector section that detects the data units of said main information where the data segments of said additional information are incorporated, from the data received via the communication network; and

a decoder section that decodes the data units, detected by said detector section, in a manner corresponding to the predetermined encoding algorithm and thereby separates and reproduces the data segments of said additional information and the data units of said main information from among the detected data units.

Claim 56 (new) A system as recited in claim 55 which further comprises a section that displays said additional information reproduced by said decoder section.

Claim 57 (new): A machine-readable recording medium containing a program executable by a computer for transmitting information, said program comprising:

 a first step of providing main information to be transmitted, data of said main information including a group of data units each having a predetermined plurality of bits;

 a second step of providing additional information to be incorporated into the data of said main information, said additional information including a plurality of data segments;

 a third step of incorporating the data segments of said additional information provided by said second step into particular ones of the data units of said main information provided by said first step, in accordance with a predetermined encoding algorithm, prior to transmission of said main information; and

 a fourth step of transmitting to a communication network said main information having said additional information incorporated therein.

Claim 58 (new): A machine-readable recording medium containing a program executable by a computer for reproducing main information and additional information from data received via a communication network, data of said main information including a group of data units each having a predetermined plurality of bits, said additional information including a plurality of divided data segments, said main information having the data segments of said additional information incorporated in the data units thereof in accordance with a predetermined encoding algorithm, said program comprising the steps of:

detecting the data units of said main information where the data segments of said additional information are incorporated, from the data received via the communication network; and

decoding the data units, detected by said step of detecting, in a manner corresponding to the predetermined encoding algorithm and thereby separating and reproducing the data segments of said additional information and the data units of said main information from among the detected data units.

Claim 59 (new): A machine-readable recording medium containing music performance information having predetermined portions coded in conventional form and another portion, than the predetermined portions, processed by secret, special encoding in such a manner that the predetermined portions of the music performance information coded in conventional form can be reproduced by every person while the other portion of the music performance information having undergone the special encoding can be reproduced only by an authorized person.